

What is claimed is:

1. A computer network for processing a plurality of transactions between a central server processor and a plurality of geographically diverse client processors, at least some of said client processors being located at a branch office whereat a service is provided to a consumer of said transaction, said network comprising a central server, said central server having a proprietary stored program for processing a plurality of transactions, each of said transactions involving a communication between said central server and at least one client processor, each of said client processors having a web browser for accessing said proprietary program and transacting said transactions on said server so that the entirety of data communicated within said transaction is available to said proprietary program.
2. The computer network of claim 1 wherein said proprietary software is configured to be GUI based.
3. The computer network of claim 1 wherein said proprietary software is configured to communicate with any processor upon proper sign in and recognition of said processor as an authorized processor.
4. The computer network of claim 3 wherein said proprietary program is configured to customize the display of information corresponding to a demographic of each authorized processor.
5. The computer network of claim 4 wherein said proprietary program is configured to correlate an authorized processor with a specific geographic location as part of an authorization process.
6. The computer network of claim 1 wherein said client processors are connected to said server processor over a WAN.
7. The computer network of claim 1 wherein said network further comprises a second server processor, and a load balancer interconnecting said server processors, and wherein said load balancer is configured to direct transaction traffic from said client processors between said two server processors to minimize delay in processing said transaction traffic.
8. The computer network of claim 7 wherein said network further comprises a LAN interconnecting said servers.
9. The computer network of claim 8 wherein said proprietary program is configured to back up transaction data between said two server processors.
10. A computer network including a server processor configured to handle real time processing of transaction requests from a plurality

of client processors on a large scale basis, a substantial number of said client processors being geographically diverse from said server processor and each other, said client processors being configured to locally process and provide point of sale services for fulfillment of said transactions, said server processor including a proprietary program configured to process and accumulate data identifying and correlated to each of said transactions for the business processing of said transaction, a WAN interconnecting said plurality of client processors with said server processor, and said server being configured to provide a secure web based browser interface between each of said client processors and said server processor.

11. The computer network of claim 10 wherein said proprietary program is configured to provide a GUI interface to said client processors.

12. The computer network of claim 10 wherein said proprietary program is configured to authorize each client prior to providing access to any client processor, and wherein said authorization includes identifying the particular processor and correlate it with a geographic location for said processor.

13. The computer network of claim 12 wherein said proprietary program is configured to customize its display in correlation with the particular client processor as it is authorized and allowed access.

14. The computer network of claim 10 wherein each of said client processors is a thin client device.

15. The computer network of claim 10 wherein said proprietary program is configured to permit controlled interaction between authorized client processors and said server processor for purposes of entering, modifying, and executing a transaction.

16. An internet enabled automatic rental vehicle transaction system, said system having an internet web portal through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services may access over the internet a rental vehicle software program resident on a computer system, said rental vehicle software program being configured to automatically respond to a series of commands from said authorized purchaser and communicate a rental vehicle reservation to a second computer system, said second computer system having a second computer software program resident thereon, said second computer software program being configured to process rental vehicle transactions and

communicate over the internet with a plurality of geographically diverse branch facilities each of which has a plurality of vehicles for rental, said second computer system being linked to said first computer system.

17. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 16 wherein said second computer system includes a main frame processor, and a thin client processor located at each branch.

18. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 17 wherein said second computer system has its operational software on the main frame processor.

19. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 18 wherein said first computer system includes a main frame, and said main frames are linked together.

20. An automatic rental vehicle transaction system, said system having a graphical user interface (GUI) through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services may access a rental vehicle software program resident on a computer system, said rental vehicle software program being configured to automatically respond to a series of commands from said authorized purchaser and communicate a rental vehicle reservation to a second computer system, said second computer system comprising a main frame computer and a plurality of client computers located at specific geographically remote rental vehicle locations at which vehicles for rent are situated, said second computer system having a GUI through which said client computers communicate with the main frame, said rental vehicle reservation having sufficient information for authorizing, processing and billing said rental vehicle transaction so that a rental vehicle transaction may be automatically processed thereby virtually without human intervention.

21. The automatic rental vehicle transaction system of claim 20 wherein said first computer system comprises a main frame, said main frames being linked to each other, and wherein each of said first and second computer systems have software configured to interact over the internet.

22. The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 21 wherein said authorized purchaser comprises a business organization, said business organization having a plurality of authorized purchasers, said plurality of authorized purchasers being enabled to access said internet web portal from any location offering internet web access,

and further comprising a second business organization, said second business organization having both of the first and second computer systems resident therein, and wherein said second business organization includes the plurality of geographically diverse rental vehicle locations.

23. A method for processing vehicle rental transactions over the internet, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a main frame computer, said main frame computer being configured to communicate over the internet with a GUI web based browser;

providing a plurality of client processors, at least some of said client processors being located at geographically remote locations and wherein each of said client processors has a GUI web based internet browser;

providing for the connection on demand between each of said client processors and the main frame computer so that transaction data may be interchanged therebetween for the processing of vehicle rental transactions.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of authenticating each client processor prior to connection with the main frame.

25. The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of providing another main frame computer for receiving transactions placed by any one of a plurality of user processors.

26. The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of providing for communication between each of said user processors and their associated main frame via a GUI web based internet browser.

27. The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of providing for the exchange of transaction data between said two main frame computers.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of providing for storage of data related to the vehicle rental transactions.

29. The method of claim 28 further comprising the steps of providing multiple processors for receiving incoming client and user requests for access to said main frames, and separately balancing the load between said multiple processors.

30. A method for providing a GUI interface through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services may access a rental vehicle software program resident on a rental vehicle provider's

5 first business computer system, and a GUI interface through which the employees of the rental vehicle provider may access a proprietary program on a second business computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first computer system having a software program configured to create a GUI interface;

10 establishing a link between said authorized purchaser's computer and the first computer system, said GUI interface software program being further configured to facilitate functional interaction between the software program resident on said rental vehicle provider's business computer system and an authorized purchaser
15 logged onto said GUI interface software program; and

establishing a link between a computer operated by an employee of said rental vehicle provider and said second computer, said GUI interface software being further configured to facilitate functional interaction between the software resident on said second computer
20 system and said employee's computer.